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Experiment (I)

Hsi Murong

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Four Poems in Translation

by Hsi Murong
Translated by Sufen Sophia Lai



Experiment (I)

They said if we dropped into the water
A small piece of aluminum sulfate
We would find precipitated at the bottom
All the impurities.

Then, if,
If we place in our heart
A poem,
Is it not able
To sink to the bottom
All of yesterday?



Experiment (II)

In the chemistry lab
There is a type of litmus paper
That turns red if dipped in acid
Or turns blue when it detects alkali.

How I wish then
In my life
I were also equipped with some kind of litmus
That could beforehand try out
Everything that is entangling in front of my eyes—
All kinds of sorrow and joy.



Hsi Murong is an ethnic Mongolian poet, born in China, who grew up in Taiwan and is currently residing and teaching art in Taipei. Her two collections of poetry, *Ch'i-li hsiang (Seven Mile Fragrance)* and *Wu-yuan te ch'ing-ch'un (A Sorrowless Youth)* are in the 7th and 6th editions, respectively.

Sufen Sophia Lai is an assistant professor of English who teaches Asian literature, world mythologies, and classical literature at Grand Valley. She is working on a collection of translations of Hsi Murong's poems.